

THE CRITIC

JOURNAL OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN LITERATURE AND THE ARTS:

A Guide for the Library and Book-Club, and Booksellers' Circular.

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LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—The council of this college have lately determined upon founding scholarships for the several departments of this institution, with a view to the encouragement of diligence in the study of divinity, and the various branches of literature and science. Some of these scholarships are confined to the lower classes of the school, whilst others of a higher value are open to the senior students of each department. —*Globe.*

SALE OF MANUSCRIPTS, &c.—The sale of manuscripts, and black-letter books of the fifteenth century, was concluded at Mr. Fletcher's Rooms, Piccadilly. Owing to the unfavourable state of the weather the sale was but thinly attended. The following are some of the articles sold:—Die Kunst Ceromantia Durch De Hartlieb Joy Schapff zu Augsburg, 1443. This rare and curious block book (says the catalogue) should contain twenty-six leaves, of which two are printed but on one side. The present copy has but sixteen leaves, all of which are printed upon both sides. Both the first and last leaf are wanting, as well as the leaf which carries the date, thus—"Fritag Nach Conceptionis Maria Virginis Gloriosis, 1443." Excepting the preliminary pages, each printed page is occupied by a hand larger than the natural size, upon which the significations of the various lines are indicated in small-sized characters. Each hand is surrounded by a border, and in this copy the ground is filled in with various colours. There are but two perfect copies known of this work; viz. in the public libraries of Munich and Wolfenbuttel. The book sold for 14*l*. The first edition of the German Bible, without date, place, or printer's name, but printed in 1462, sold for 15 guineas. Two copies of the first edition of Luther's Bible, with woodcuts after designs by Albert Durer and Lucas Cranach, sold respectively for 5*l*. 2s. 6d. and 8*l*. 15s. The autographs of monarchs sold remarkably low, the highest price being obtained for one of the Emperor Charles V. viz. 1*l*. 4s. An autograph of Bonaparte, when first consul, fetched but 9s., and one of Charles XII. of Sweden, but 18s.

ROMAN MOSAICS.—Excavations undertaken by M. Charles Antoine de Bonstetten, in the neighbourhood of Orbe, in the Canton of Vaud, on the site of what is supposed to be the ancient town of Urba—whose site has already yielded many objects of antiquity to the Museum of Lausanne—have brought to light two magnificent mosaic pavements. One of these, 15ft. 4in. in height by 11ft. 5in. in width, represents the Cretan Labyrinth, with six entrances, each protected by a tower, and Theseus struggling with the Minotaur; and is surrounded with a border 3ft. 2in. in width, composed of foliage curiously interlaced. This mosaic has suffered slight injuries; but the other and larger one is quite perfect. It is 25ft. 5in. in length by 18ft. in width, without reckoning a semicircular prolongation on one of its sides; and contains a great number of small figures, picturing hunts and combats, and separated from each other by framework more or less enriched.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRITIC.

SIR,—It was my intention, long prior to your request for the opinion of the trade as to the merits of your valuable publication, to have tendered my meed of praise for the admirable manner in which it is conducted; but on consideration of the subject I deemed it advisable to refrain then from writing you about the work, in order that I might be the better enabled afterwards to give a mature and candid opinion of the same. As a bookseller and librarian of long experience I consider it the very best periodical of the day for the purpose of guiding the bookseller, librarian, and bookbuying public in general, in obtaining a correct knowledge of the merits of the books issuing from the British press. The criticisms uniformly bearing the stamp of the strictest impartiality, assertions being never hazarded upon a work without ample quotations being afforded to back them. In its other departments, THE CRITIC supplies a liberal fund of entertainment and instruction in the varied fields of poetry, fiction, science, and art. Indeed I cannot possibly conceive a more useful and interesting publication, or a better medium for advertisements, and I have not the least doubt but THE CRITIC will ere long be held in the highest estimation by publishers and the reading portion of the community. In giving my opinion, I am cordially joined by numerous friends, both lay and clerical, who have expressed themselves much interested in the prosperity of your publication, and who uniformly consult it as the best criterion for judging of the standard literature of the day. That the success of your paper may surpass your most sanguine expectations, is my fond desire. The best thanks of the public are due to the indefatigable editor.

I am Sir, yours, &c.
JOHN HICKS.

122, Queen-street, Glasgow, Dec. 17, 1845.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRITIC.

SIR,—By accident I became acquainted with THE CRITIC, I directly ordered it, and from that time became a subscriber, and the pleasure I have derived by the perusal of its literary articles hath been of a most satisfactory nature.

But its greatest value in my opinion consists in the medium of communication which it furnishes to the publishing world, with booksellers and librarians in the country, affording to the former an excellent means for advertising, and to the latter an opportunity of judging the value of new works which are constantly appearing, by the copious reviews and notices which it contains, which if fully appreciated by all parties concerned cannot fail to render it one of the most valuable journals in the United Kingdom.

Sincerely wishing that THE CRITIC may speedily obtain that extensive circulation which its merits are certain to secure.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

WILLIAM COOKE, Bookseller.

Bradford, Yorkshire, Dec. 18, 1845.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRITIC.

SIR,—I have been now for a considerable time a subscriber to THE CRITIC, and would beg to add my testimony to that of other booksellers in its favour; I find it extremely useful and impartial guide to the best new publications, and regret that the London booksellers do not use it more largely as an advertising medium.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Strabam, Dec. 16, 1845. ANDREW JENKINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRITIC.

SIR,—I set a high value on THE CRITIC, from its impartiality and the very superior ability with which new works are reviewed; and deem it a valuable guide to persons keeping circulating libraries.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

MATT. QUINLAN,
Printer and Bookseller.

Thurles, Dec. 19, 1845.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRITIC.

SIR,—I have now for a couple of years regularly perused THE CRITIC, and have no hesitation in stating that I consider it the best, and decidedly the most impartial weekly Review of our day. While its columns afford ample proof of consummate talent on the part of the writers employed on it, and the amusing and instructive extracts from new works with which it abounds, leave us in no doubt as to the taste and discrimination of those on whom the duty of selection devolves, the piquant, well-written, fearless, and unbiassed spirit which marks its criticisms, cannot be too much lauded.

It gives me the most unfeigned pleasure to add my humble testimony to the great merits of THE CRITIC, and with every wish for the success of a periodical so well deserving of support, I remain, Sir, yours, &c.

BEN. M. KENNEDY.

Proprietor and Publisher of the Arbroath Guide newspaper.
Guide Office, Arbroath, Dec. 22, 1845.

REGISTER OF NEW PUBLICATIONS,

From Dec. 20 to Dec. 27.

NOTICE TO BOOKSELLERS.

A Register lies at THE CRITIC OFFICE, in which the Publishers of Books, Music, and Works of Art, in town and country, are requested to enter all new publications, with their sizes and prices, as soon as they appear. The weekly list will be regularly inserted in this department of THE CRITIC, and no charge will be made either for registration or for publication in THE CRITIC. Particulars forwarded by letter will be duly inserted.

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